appeared in Petrograd.[8] Its program was not very clear, but the list of contributors read like a Who's Who in radical journalism. The editors asked me to contribute, and I sent a long political article, which was barred by military censorship, and several essays on Siberia, which were printed.

Meanwhile Rozhkov launched a weekly in Chita. He returned to his old idea: a publication only a shade more liberal than other local papers, but with more attention to labor. He urged me insistently to write for his paper, and I gave him weekly *Pis'ma o Voyne* (*Letters on War*) and the story of my trip with Mikhail, which *The Russian Word* could not publish because of wartime conditions.

BACK TO PRISON

Early in the spring of 1915, I was arrested on order of the local chief of gendarmes. After a month of solitary confinement in the Irkutsk prison, without books and writing materials, I was interrogated. The young gendarme officer had laid out on his desk the reprints of my articles, our Irkutsk publications, and other material and galleys taken in my room.

"Did you write all this?"

"Yes, all that is signed with my name, my pen name Sergei Petrov, or the respective initials."

"And this also?" He showed me the galleys with the stamps of the military censor in Petrograd.

"This book would have appeared under my full name if it had not been forbidden by the censor."

"Glad to hear that," said the gendarme affably. "You will get four years of forced labor for this. You know the law."

"I know, but you do not," I replied. "This must be your first literary case."

The young officer became livid. "This is treacherous, subversive writing," he shouted. "Article 129, deportation for a free man, four years of forced labor for a deportee!"

"The crime of subversive writing is committed in the place in which the piece is published or distributed," I replied. "This book was intended for publication and was set in Petrograd. It is no business of yours unless you have an order from the Petrograd authorities to investigate the case."

From the legal standpoint my reasoning was foolproof. The gendarmes' mistake was that they combined my Petrograd articles and

[8] Early in World War I the German name of the Russian capital "St. Petersburg" was changed to Russified "Petrograd."

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